

Virginia State Rehabilitation Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2010

A meeting of the Virginia State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) was held on May 10, 2010 at the Richmond Marriott West.

Members Present: Gregory Coleman, Sandra Cook, Stephanie Colorado, Danny DeBoer, Charles Downs, Matthew Deans, Donna Kay Graff, Karen Gregory-Williams, Shannon McManus Jones, Sarah Liddle, Toney Lineberry, Kathy Maybee, Marianne Moore, James Rothrock, Cherie Rei Takemoto, Florence Watt, Celia Yette

Members Absent: Karen Baugh, Charles Benagh

Others Present: Elizabeth Smith, Policy and Planning Director; Scott Fraley, Vocational Rehabilitation Quality Assurance Analyst; Vanessa Rakestraw, Policy Analyst; Mable Fleming, Senior Analyst; Barbara Tyson, Staff Support; Cat Clough and Bernadette Mayhall, Interpreters; Rick Sizemore, Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Director; Ernie Steidle, Chief Operating Officer; and Roy Ward, Guest

Call to Order: Council Chairperson Florence Watt called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Charles Downs, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting as distributed.

Matters of Public Comment: There were no comments from the public.

Chairperson's Report: Ms. Watt asked Marianne Moore and Karen Gregory-Williams to serve on the Nominating Committee for the election of the SRC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2011. Nominations will be considered at the August SRC meeting.

On behalf of the SRC, Liz Smith looked into SRC collaboration with the Mental Health Planning Council and the Board of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). The Rehabilitation Act requires that the SRC have a collaborative relationship with the Mental Health Planning Council. There is no such requirement for the DBHDS Board. However, the SRC is welcome to attend the DBHDS Board meetings. Kathy Maybee requested that she be advised of upcoming DBHDS Board meetings. The SRC will seek a SRC member to become involved with the Mental Health Planning Council. In the interim, Mary Kaye Johnston, DRS Program Manager and member of the Mental Health Planning Council, may brief the SRC on the activities of this Council.

On April 17-19, Ms. Cook attended the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation Conference held in Bethesda, Maryland. Ms. Cook reported that the George Washington University TACE Center is planning a quarterly meeting of the SRC

Chairs and Vice Chairs from Region III. In addition, the SRC needs to decide if it should become a member of the National Coalition of SRCs. Danny DeBoer asked about the mission and objectives of the Coalition. Further research into this organization will occur and the issue of membership will be considered at a future meeting.

Ms. Watt reported that she emailed the 2009 SRC Annual Report and her personal vocational rehabilitation story to all the members of the General Assembly. Having received some positive feedback from the members, Ms. Watt recommended that the 2011 SRC Chair continue to follow this practice.

Ms. Watt appointed Sarah Liddle and Marianne Moore to serve as the Planning Committee for the Fall SRC Retreat. Ms. Liddle reported that the Statewide Independent Living Council has allocated funding for a joint meeting between the SRC and the SILC. Ms. Liddle and Ms. Moore will report on their ideas at the August meeting.

Working Lunch – SRC Awards Ceremony

The SRC presented five DRS employees with the 2010 SRC Roy J. Ward Employee Leadership Recognition Award. Awards were presented to Douglas James, Kristi Lockhart, Joe Fangman, Sinclair Hubbard, and Donna Martin.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Rothrock reviewed the current status of the Field Rehabilitation Services Division's performance metrics for FFY 2010. There has been a 3% increase in vocational rehabilitation cases. On case closures, 90% are in competitive employment with average hourly wages at \$9.23. Successful employment outcomes and the rehabilitation rate are about 15% behind as compared to last year, but there should be an increase in the last half of the FFY. DRS has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to Employment Services Organizations that serve populations in communities where unemployment is higher than 10%. There will be approximately 10 awards at \$75,000 per award to create competitive jobs for significantly disabled Virginians. In the next year, DRS will work with local schools and the Department of Education to develop five new Project Search sites and the SRC will receive by email a video on Project Search. FRS staff is working on developing a "fast track" system to rapidly engage VR consumers in their VR plan leading to expedited successful employment closures. There also are plans to provide work incentives to VR counselors to enhance employment outcomes. With funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, DRS hired additional vocational rehabilitation staff to enhance the use of job clubs in the field offices. The daily census at WWRC continues to improve with about 300 or more consumers at the Center per day. Governor McDonnell issued Executive Order 2 establishing the Governor's Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring. DRS made some suggestions for agency efficiency measures and Commissioner Rothrock will keep the SRC apprised of the Commission's work. With Executive Order 1, Governor McDonnell created the Governor's Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission. The Commission held its first meeting last week. Commissioner

Rothrock and DBHDS Commissioner Jim Stewart are working together to see how the Commission can address the employment of Virginians with disabilities.

Budget Report

Dr. Steidle reported on the status of the budget for State Fiscal Year 2010. As of March 2010, the agency had expended 35% of the budget which is a little higher due to the receipt of ARRA funds.

WWRC Report

Rick Sizemore handed out the *WWRC Blueprint for Direction*, Volume 2 and the *WWRC 2009 Annual Report*. He will report on the progress of the Volume 3 edition at the August meeting and receive feedback from the SRC members. The average daily census at WWRC has increased from 270 to 350 and should further increase to 400 during the summer with the arrival of PERT students. This increase in the daily census is occurring even though WWRC has reduced staffing due to budget reductions. Rothrock Hall is at capacity with 22 clients, and there is a waiting list. The Center now has a staff liaison at Health South (UVA Medical) to refer patients to WWRC.

Council Roundtable Reports

Reports were submitted in writing and are attached.

Internal Affairs Committee Report

The State Plan Subcommittee reviewed the drafts of two 2011 State Plan Attachments. A motion was made by Cherie Takemoto and unanimously passed by the full Council to approve the SRC Recommendations Attachment (Attachment 4.2(c)). A motion was made by Cherie Takemoto and unanimously passed by the full Council to approve the Goals and Priorities Attachment (Attachment 4.11(c)(1)).

The Transition Services Subcommittee reviewed the report from their meeting with the Education Services Unit staff. The Subcommittee is looking to provide meaningful information for the SRC on transition services. Suggestions include developing on line training for SRC members and a session on transition services for the SRC New Member Orientation Program.

The Limited English Proficiency Subcommittee reported on its meeting with Daisy Maldonado, DRS Multicultural Manager. The population of Limited English Proficiency individuals seems to be most concentrated in Northern Virginia. It was suggested that information about DRS services could be disseminated to non-traditional sources (such as churches) to reach individuals from different ethnic backgrounds. DRS developed foreign language access posters, which will be placed at the reception area in field offices to allow non-English speaking consumers to point to their native language in order to help identify their language interpreting needs. In regard to consumers who are deaf or

hard of hearing, the Subcommittee recommends that DRS develop a videotape for clients and their parents on DRS' services; the video could be closed captioned and with a sign language interpreter on the screen.

The Consumer Satisfaction Subcommittee is working with Mable Fleming to develop an action plan for the use of survey results and plans to have a draft of this report by the August meeting.

The WWRC Subcommittee will provide a report at the August meeting.

External Affairs Committee Report

The Committee reviewed the suggested changes to the SRC website to make it more user friendly, concise, and a helpful resource for individuals researching the vocational rehabilitation program. The Committee will look at a final draft at the August meeting.

All SRC members eligible for reappointment to the SRC expressed their interest in being reappointed. Cherie Takemoto has sent in the name of a PEATC representative to succeed her. The SRC still needs to identify an additional representative from Business, Labor, and Industry and a representative from the Virginia Workforce Council.

Unfinished Business

The Wounded Warriors agenda item was tabled for the August meeting.

New Business

Mabel Fleming provided a presentation on the seven year results of the Vocational Rehabilitation Consumer Satisfaction Survey. Ms. Takemoto requested information on the percentage of consumers who are very satisfied on the 5-point rating scale. Typically, the survey results are in a collapsed form (satisfied=very satisfied and satisfied; agree=completely agree and somewhat agree). This information will be forwarded to Ms. Takemoto.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 9, 2010 at the DRS Headquarters in Richmond.